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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Special Election Maneuvers

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Bulgarian Government has decided to grant amnesties, freeing from imprisonment and concentration camps all prisoners who have been sentenced for less than five years, provided their sentences are for:
 - a. Having failed to make deliveries of agricultural products to the state, within the time limits;
 - b. "Offenses" against collectivization;
 - c. Attitudes against the regime. This does not mean actual political offenses, but simply failure to show blind enthusiasm for the acts of the local Communist Party.
2. The official attitude toward the "kulaks" has also changed. Two years ago they were being persecuted as "enemies of the people". Vulko Chervenkov has now, in a recent speech, asserted that private farm owners, "called kulaks", are "our brothers", who are also working with the other elements of Bulgaria for the development of the nation.
3. In other words, there is an election coming, and the Communist leaders are letting up a little, meantime making a great many promises.

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